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בקשה לפטנט
Application For Patent

אני, (שם המבקש, מענו ולגבי גוף מאוגד – מקום ההתאגדות)
I (Name and address of applicant, and in case of body corporate-place of incorporation

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(בעברית) (Hebrew) שימוש באנטגוניסטים FGFR3 לטיפול במחלות הנובעות מתאי T

(באנגלית) (English) Use of FGFR3 Antagonists For Treating T Cell Mediated Diseases

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מבקשת פטנט Application from No.....מס dated.....מיום	לבקשה/לפטנט to Patent/Application No.....מס dated.....מיום	מספר / סימן Number / Mark	תאריך Date	מדינת האגוד Convention Country
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שימוש באנטגוניסטים FGFR3 לטיפול במחלות הנובעות מתאי T

Use of FGFR3 Antagonists For Treating T Cell Mediated Diseases

PRO/028/IL

USE OF FGFR3 ANTAGONISTS FOR TREATING T CELL MEDIATED DISEASES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method of preventing and treating T cell mediated diseases, including inflammatory autoimmune diseases and in particular rheumatoid arthritis, by administering to a patient in need thereof at least one FGFR3 antagonist.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

T Cell Mediated Disease

The human immune system is a highly regulated cellular network that normally functions to defend the body from infection. In some instances, the immune system malfunctions and reacts to a host component as if it were foreign. Such a response results in an autoimmune disease, in which the host's immune system mistakenly attacks self, targeting the host's own tissue. T cells, the primary regulators of the immune system, directly or indirectly effect the autoimmune response. T cell-mediated diseases refer to any disease directly mediated by T cells and those indirectly mediated whereby a T cell response contributes to the production of abnormal antibodies and frequently an inflammatory response.

Aberrant immune mechanisms are believed to result in more than eighty diseases, among these are rheumatoid arthritis (RA), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), multiple sclerosis (MS), type I diabetes, myasthenia gravis (MG) and psoriasis. Autoimmune diseases affect millions of people worldwide. In addition to the individual suffering generated by these diseases, the cost in terms of actual treatment expenditures and lost productivity is measured in billions of dollars annually.

Rheumatoid Arthritis

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is a systemic inflammatory autoimmune disease that primarily affects the small diarthrodial joints of the hands and feet. The disease manifests itself as inflammation of the normally acellular synovium, the joint lining, due to the infiltration of macrophages, T cells and other immune cells into the region. T cells appear to play an important role in the etiopathogenesis of RA since T-cell cytokines such as interleukin-2 (IL-2) and interferon-γ are present in the synovium and synovial fluid.

Damage to the joints depends on three primary elements: inflammation, infiltration of the synovial tissue with immune cells and angiogenesis. The locally expressed degradative enzymes and cytokines digest the extracellular matrix and destroy the articular tissue resulting in chronic pain and irreversible damage of tendons, ligaments, joints, and bones. RA affects approximately 0.5-1% of the adult population in the western world.

Biological Therapy for T Cell Mediated Disease

Novel biological approaches for treating autoimmune disease, including monoclonal antibodies, soluble receptors, and enzyme inhibitors, target pro-inflammatory cytokines, their cell surface receptors and cell types, have emerged as a result of the recent advances in understanding the physiopathology underlying inflammation. (reviewed in Smolen and Steiner, 2003; Nepom, 2002; Simón, 2001).

US 5,919,452 discloses the treatment of tumor necrosis factor α (TNF α) mediated pathologies such as autoimmune and inflammatory diseases by administering compounds such as anti-TNFα antibodies and anti-TNFα peptides. US 5,512,544 discloses the treatment of autoimmune disease comprising administering TNFα binding proteins, which are in effect soluble forms of the TNF receptor, to a patient. US 6,333,032 discloses a method of treating an autoimmune disease in a human patient comprising administering an antibody to γ-interferon.

PCT application WO 01/57056 discloses a method for treating RA in an individual, comprising the step of expressing within the individual at least an immunologically recognizable portion of a cytokine from an exogenous polynucleotide wherein a level of expression of the at least a portion of the cytokine is sufficient to induce the formation of anti-cytokine immunoglobulins which serve for neutralizing or ameliorating the activity of a respective endogenous cytokine.

The use of anti-angiogenic compounds, specifically those which inhibit VEGF signaling, for the treatment of RA has been proposed (reviewed in Paleolog, 2002) based on the rationale that disruption of new blood vessel formation would prevent delivery of nutrients to the inflammatory site and may lead to vessel regression.

Fibroblast Growth Factors

Fibroblast Growth Factors (FGFs) constitute a family of over twenty structurally related polypeptides that are developmentally regulated and expressed in a wide variety of tissues. FGFs stimulate proliferation, cell migration and differentiation and play a major

role in skeletal and limb development, wound healing, tissue repair, hematopoiesis, angiogenesis, and tumorigenesis (reviewed in Ornitz and Itoh, 2001).

The biological action of FGFs is mediated by specific cell surface receptors belonging to the receptor protein tyrosine kinase (RPTK) family of protein kinases. These proteins consist of an extracellular ligand binding domain, a single transmembrane domain and an intracellular tyrosine kinase domain which undergoes phosphorylation upon binding of FGF. The FGF receptor (FGFR) extracellular region contains three immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) loops or domains (D1, D2 and D3), an acidic box, and a heparin-binding domain. Four FGFR genes encoding for multiple receptor variants have been identified to date.

A role for the FGF system of ligands and receptors in T cell mediated disease has yet to be defined. An increase in endogenous production in the synovial fluid of RA patients may contribute to joint destruction by inducing osteoclastogenesis (Manabe, et al., 1999). A neutralizing anti-FGF2 antibody was shown to inhibit osteoclastogenesis induced by RA synovial fluid in a cell culture system (Manabe, et al., 1999) and to attenuate the clinical symptoms and histopathological abnormalities in a rat adjuvant induced arthritis (AIA) model (Yamashita, et al., 2002). Japanese patent publication 2002-229883 discloses a bFGF (FGF2) antagonist as a therapeutic agent for treating chronic rheumatoid arthritis.

A copending PCT patent application WO 02/102973, co-assigned to the assignee of the present invention, discloses antibodies to receptor tyrosine kinases, specifically anti-Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 3 (FGFR3) antibodies. Certain antibodies shown to be specific for FGFR3 are useful to neutralize FGFR3 activity and for the treatment of skeletal dysplasias such as achondroplasia and proliferative diseases such as bladder cancer and multiple myeloma.

International patent application WO 03/023004 discloses antisense modulation of FGFR3 expression for the treatment of skeletal and proliferative disorders.

However, the art neither teaches nor suggests the use of FGFR3 antagonists, including anti-FGFR3 antibodies, for the prevention or treatment of autoimmune or inflammatory diseases. Citation of any document herein is not intended as an admission that such document is pertinent prior art, or considered material to the patentability of any claim of the present application.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is now disclosed that the inhibition of Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 3 (FGFR3) represents a novel and unexpected means of treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease. The present invention relates to the prevention, attenuation or treatment of an autoimmune disease by administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one FGFR3 antagonist to a mammal in need thereof. The methods of the present invention are effective in treatment of T-cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune diseases including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

In one aspect the present invention is related to a method of preventing, attenuating or treating the symptoms of a T-cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of an FGFR3 antagonist and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Another aspect relates to the use of at least one FGFR3 antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease.

An antagonist can take many forms. In a non-limiting example an FGFR3 antagonist is a molecule comprising at least the antigen-binding portion of an antibody having a specific affinity for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor or a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof. Other FGFR3 specific antagonists and their use in treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease are intended to be included in the present invention.

In one aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one therapeutically effective FGFR3 antagonist selected from the group consisting of a molecule comprising at least the antigen-binding portion of an antibody having a specific affinity for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 specific peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor and a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof.

In another aspect, the present invention provides the use of a FGFR3 antagonist selected from the group consisting of a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 specific peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor and a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention and treatment of a T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease.

According to certain embodiments of the present invention the FGFR3 antagonist is a molecule that comprises the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3). In a preferred embodiment the molecule comprises the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has specific affinity for the extracellular domain of fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3).

According to certain embodiments the antibody is polyclonal, monoclonal, or proteolytic fragments thereof such as the Fab or $F(ab')_2$ fragments. Additional embodiments include chimeric antibodies; human and humanized antibodies; recombinant and engineered antibodies, and fragments thereof. A preferred antibody species is a single chain antibody. Single chain antibodies can be single chain composite polypeptides having antigen binding capabilities and comprising amino acid sequences homologous or analogous to the variable regions of an immunoglobulin light and heavy chain i.e. linked V_H-V_L or single chain Fv (ScFv).

Some of the molecules and compositions thereof described herein have been disclosed in copending PCT patent application WO 02/102972, co-assigned to the assignee of the present invention, where they were disclosed as useful for treating skeletal dysplasias and proliferative disease.

It is now disclosed that said known sequences are also useful for the treatment of a T cell mediated inflammatory disease including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

In certain embodiments the present invention provides a method of treating or preventing T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a

therapeutic composition which comprises a molecule comprising a V_H-CDR3 region having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 1-9 and a corresponding V_L-CDR3 region having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 10-18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The corresponding polynucleotide sequences of the V_H-CDR3 and V_L-CDR3 regions have SEQ ID NOS: 39-47 and SEQ ID NOS: 48-56, respectively.

According to various additional embodiments the present invention provides a method of treating or preventing a T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a therapeutic composition which comprises a molecule comprising a V_H domain having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 19-27 and the corresponding V_L domains having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 28-36, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The corresponding polynucleotide sequences of the V_H and V_L domains have SEQ ID NOS: 57-65 and SEQ ID NOS: 66-74, respectively.

In a preferred embodiment, the present invention provides a method of treating or preventing T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a molecule denoted herein PRO-001 comprising a V_H-CDR3 region and a V_L-CDR3 region having SEQ ID NOS:1 and 10, respectively, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In another preferred embodiment the pharmaceutical composition comprises a V_H domain and a V_L domain having SEQ ID NOS: 19 and 27, respectively, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In yet another preferred embodiment the pharmaceutical composition comprises a single chain Fv molecule (ScFv) having SEQ ID NO:37, having corresponding polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:38, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. According to certain embodiments of the present invention a small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) having FGFR3 specificity is useful for preventing, attenuating or treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In a non-limiting example, a secreted receptor, also known as soluble receptors comprises the extracellular ligand-binding portion of the FGFR3 receptor, per se or fused to the constant region (Fc) of a human immunoglobulin (Ig) chain.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific peptide inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. A peptide inhibitor includes FGFR3 specific peptides, peptide analogs having amino acid sequence derived from the extracellular portion of the fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) and peptidomimetics based on the structure of such peptides.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. RNA inhibition (RNAi) is based on antisense modulation of FGFR3 in cells and tissues comprising contacting the cells and tissues with at least one antisense compound, including but not limited to double stranded RNA, (dsRNA), small interfering RNA (siRNA), ribozymes and locked nucleic acids (LNAs), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In certain specific embodiments the RNA inhibiting molecule is an antisense oligonucleotide or an oligonucleotide mimetic comprising from about 8 to about 50 nucleotides.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. DNA vaccination provides an effective means of long term antigen expression *in vivo* for the generation of both humoral and cellular immune responses. According to various embodiments of the present invention the DNA vaccines encode active fragments of FGFR3. The preferred fragments are polynucleotides encoding the extracellular domain of FGFR3, in particular amino acids

about 1-370 or fragments thereof. The FGFR3 according to the present invention is preferably human, however other mammalian FGFR3 proteins are within the scope of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURES

Figure 1 shows the effect of certain FGFR3 antagonists on limb swelling in a murine Collagen Induced Arthritis (CIA) model.

Figure 2 depicts the effect of certain FGFR3 antagonists in a delayed type hypersensitivity assay in a murine model.

Figure 3 shows the interferon gamma secretion of lymphocytes isolated from FGFR3 antagonist treated and non-treated animals.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based on the discovery that inhibition or attenuation of fibroblast growth factor 3 (FGFR3)-mediated signaling results in the prevention and treatment of T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune diseases including, but not limited to, rheumatoid arthritis. It is now disclosed that the inhibition of Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 3 (FGFR3) represents a novel and unexpected means of treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease. The present invention relates to the prevention, attenuation or treatment of autoimmune disease by administering a therapeutically effective amount of at least one FGFR3 antagonist to a mammal in need thereof. The methods of the present invention are effective in treatment of T-cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease including, but not limited to, rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

The present invention further relates to the use of at least one FGFR3 antagonist for the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention, attenuation or treatment of a T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease, including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis.

FGFR3 antagonists can take several forms. In a non-limiting example, they may be antigen binding molecules of different types such as polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies or a monoclonal antibody fragment. They may take the form of a FGFR3 soluble receptor per se or in the form of a soluble receptor fusion protein with an Fc fragment. An FGFR3 antagonist may be a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor and a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof.

Copending PCT patent application WO 02/102972, co-assigned to the assignee of the present invention, discloses monoclonal antibodies to receptor protein tyrosine kinases, specifically anti-Fibroblast Growth Factor Receptor 3 (FGFR3) antibodies. Certain antibodies were shown to be specific for FGFR3 and useful to neutralize FGFR3 activity and for the treatment of skeletal dysplasias such as achondroplasia and proliferative diseases such as bladder cancer and multiple myeloma. Utilizing a soluble dimeric form of the extracellular domain of the FGFR3 receptor to screen for antibodies (e.g., Fabs)

from a phage display antibody library yielded numerous high affinity (K_D < 50 nM) antibodies (Fabs) that bind FGFR3 and interfere with ligand binding, thereby blocking ligand-dependent activation of FGFR3. Additional antibodies useful for blocking ligand-independent, or constitutive, activation were also identified and isolated.

The present inventors have now discovered that certain molecules disclosed in that application are useful for the prevention and treatment of T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune diseases, including but not limited to rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

For convenience certain terms employed in the specification, examples and claims are described herein.

The term "fibroblast growth factor receptor" or "FGFR" denotes a receptor specific for FGF which is necessary for transducing the signal exerted by FGF to the cell interior, typically comprising an extracellular ligand-binding domain, a single transmembrane helix, and a cytoplasmic domain having tyrosine kinase activity. The FGFR extracellular domain consists of three immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains (D1, D2 and D3), a heparin binding domain and an acidic box. Four FGFR genes that encode for multiple receptor protein variants are known. Alternative splicing of the FGFR3 mRNAs generates two known isoforms of the receptors, FGFR3IIIc and FGFR3IIIb.

As used herein "T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune diseases" are diseases directly or indirectly effected by the T cells of the immune system. Non-limitative examples include rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

One aspect of the present invention is directed to a method of preventing, attenuating or treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease by administering a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which diminishes or inhibits activation of FGFR3, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. According to one

embodiment of the present invention the antigen-binding portion of an antibody is directed to the extracellular domain of the FGFR3.

Another aspect of the present invention is directed to molecules comprising an antigen binding domain which blocks ligand-dependent activation of FGFR3.

The molecule having the antigen-binding portion of an antibody according to the present invention is useful for blocking the ligand-dependent activation and/or ligand independent (constitutive) activation of FGFR3. Preferred embodiments of such antibodies/molecules, obtained from an antibody library designated as HuCAL® (Human Combinatorial Antibody Library) clone, are presented in Table 1 with the unique V_H-CDR3 and V_L-CDR3 sequences presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Properties of preferred embodiments of the present invention.

Clone	Affinity to FGFR3 (BIAcore) nM	Affinity FGFR3 (FACS) nM	Affinity to FGFR1 nM	K_{off} (s^{-1})	IC_{50} FGFR3 (FGF9) nM	Domain Specificity	Available formats
PRO-001	1.5	0.7	-	7.1x10e-4	19	2	Fab, Fab-dHLX, IgG1, IgG4, mIgG3, scFv
PRO-002	37	43	-	2x10e-2	360	2	Fab,Fab-dHLX, IgG1, IgG4
PRO-012	14	6.5	-	2.3x10e-3	58	2	Fab-dHLX, IgG1, IgG4, scFv
PRO-021	9	1.1	-	3.6x10e-3	50	3c	Fab, Fab-dHLX
PRO-024	10	NA	-	5.4x10e-3	70	3c	Fab
PRO-026	4	1.4	32	5 x 10e-4	70	3c	Fab, Fab-dHLX
PRO-029	6	<1	29	1.4x10e-3	20	3c	Fab, IgG1, IgG4, scFv Fab-dHLX,
PRO-054	3.7	NA	2.5	2x10e-3	45	3c	Fab
PRO-055	2.9	NA	-	7.4x10e-4	34	3c	Fab

Key: affinity (nM) of the respective molecules to FGFR3 and FGFR1 was measured by Biacore and/or FACS. IC_{50} were determined for the dimeric dHLX format of certain

molecule with antigen binding site in an FDCP-FGFR3 proliferation assay performed with FGF9. Fab-dHLX refers to a Fab mini-antibody format where a dimer of the Fab monomer is produced as a fusion protein after insertion into an expression vector.

Table 2: V_H-CDR3 and corresponding V_L-CDR3 polypeptide sequence

HuCAL® Clone	**V_H-CDR3**	**V_L-CDR3**
PRO-001	SYYPDFDY (SEQ ID NO:1)	QSYDGPDLW (SEQ ID NO:10)
PRO-002	DFLGYEFDY (SEQ ID NO:2)	QSYDYSADY (SEQ IDNO:11)
PRO-012	YHSWYEMGYY GSTVGYMFDY (SEQ ID NO:3)	QSYDFDFA (SEQ ID NO:12)
PRO-021	DNWFKPFSDV (SEQ ID NO:4)	QQYDSIPY (SEQ ID NO:13)
PRO-024	VNHWTYTFDY (SEQ ID NO:5)	QQMSNYPD (SEQ ID NO:14)
PRO-026	GYWYAYFTYI NYGYFDN (SEQ ID NO:6)	QSYDNNSDV (SEQ ID NO:15)
PRO-029	TWQYSYFYYL DGGYYFDI (SEQ ID NO:7)	QQTNNAPV (SEQ ID NO:16)
PRO-054	NMAYTNYQYV NMPHFDY (SEQ ID NO:8)	QSYDYFKL (SEQ ID NO:17)
PRO-055	SMNSTMYWYL RRVLFDH (SEQ ID NO:9)	QSYDMYMYI (SEQ ID NO:18)

V_H refers to the variable heavy chain, V_L refers to the variable heavy chain, CDR3 refers to the complementarity determining regions. In certain embodiments the present invention provides a method of treating or preventing T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a therapeutic composition which comprises a molecule comprising a V_H-CDR3 region having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 1-9 and a corresponding V_L-CDR3 region having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS:10-18, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The

corresponding polynucleotide sequences of the V_H-CDR3 and V_L-CDR3 regions have SEQ ID NOS: 39-47 and SEQ ID NOS: 48-56, respectively. The polynucleotide sequences are presented in Table 3.

According to certain embodiments the present invention provides a method of treating or preventing T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a therapeutic composition which comprises a molecule comprising a V_H domain having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 19-27 and the corresponding V_L domains having a polypeptide sequence selected from SEQ ID NOS: 28-36, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The preferred V_H and V_L sequences are presented herein.

```
PRO-001-VH (SEQ ID NO:19)
  1       QVQLQQSGPG LVKPSQTLSL TCAISGDSVS SNSAAWNWIR QSPGRGLEWL
  51      GRTYYRSKWY NDYAVSVKSR ITINPDTSKN QFSLQLNSVT PEDTAVYYCA
  101     RSYYPDFDYW GQGTLVTVSS

PRO-002-VH (SEQ ID NO:20)
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGASVKV SCKASGYTFT SYYMHWVRQA PGQGLEWMGW
  51      INPNSGGTNY AQKFQGRVTM TRDTSISTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARDF
  101     LGYEFDYWGQ GTLVTVSS

PRO-012-VH(SEQ ID NO:21)
  1       QVQLKESGPA LVKPTQTLTL TCTFSGFSLS TSGVGVGWIR QPPGKALEWL
  51      ALIDWDDDKY YSTSLKTRLT ISKDTSKNQV VLTMTNMDPV DTATYYCARY
  101     HSWYEMGYYG STVGYMFDYW GQGTLVTVSS

PRO-021-VH (SEQ ID NO:22)
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGSSVKV SCKASGGTFS SYAISWVRQA PGQGLEWMGG
  51      IIPIFGTANY AQKFQGRVTI TADESTSTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARDN
  101     WFKPFSDVWG QGTLVTVSS

PRO-024-VH(SEQ ID NO:23)
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGSSVKV SCKASGGTFS SYAISWVRQA PGQGLEWMGG
  51      IIPIFGTANY AQKFQGRVTI TADESTSTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARVN
  101    HWTYTFDYWG QGTLVTVSS

MS-Pro-26-VH(SEQ ID NO:24)
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGASVKV SCKASGYTFT SYYMHWVRQA PGQGLEWMGW
  51      INPNSGGTNY AQKFQGRVTM TRDTSISTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARGY
  101     WYAYFTYINY GYFDNWGQGT LVTVSS

PRO-029-VH(SEQ ID NO:25)
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGASVKV SCKASGYTFT SYYMHWVRQA PGQGLEWMGW
  51      INPNSGGTNY AQKFQGRVTM TRDTSISTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARTW
  101    QYSYFYYLDG GYYFDIWGQG TLVTVSS
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PRO-054-VH(SEQ ID NO:26)

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  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGASVKV SCKASGYTFT SYYMHWVRQA PGQGLEWMGW
 51       INPNSGGTNY AQKFQGRVTM TRDTSISTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARNM
101     AYTNYQYVNM PHFDYWGQGT LVTVSS
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PRO-055-VH(SEQ ID NO:27)

```
  1       QVQLVQSGAE VKKPGASVKV SCKASGYTFT SYYMHWVRQA PGQGLEWMGW
 51       INPNSGGTNY AQKFQGRVTM TRDTSISTAY MELSSLRSED TAVYYCARSM
101       NSTMYWYLRR VLFDHWGQGT LVTVSS
```

PRO-001-VL (SEQ ID NO:28)

```
  1       DIELTQPPSV SVAPGQTARI SCSGDALGDK YASWYQQKPG QAPVLVIYDD
 51       SDRPSGIPER FSGSNSGNTA TLTISGTQAE DEADYYCQSY DGPDLWVFGG
101       GTKLTVLGQ
```

PRO-002-VL(SEQ ID NO:29)

```
  1       DIELTQPPSV SVAPGQTARI SCSGDALGDK YASWYQQKPG QAPVLVIYDD
 51        SDRPSGIPER FSGSNSGNTA TLTISGTQAE DEADYYCQSY DYSADYVFGG
101       GTKLTVLGQ
```

PRO-012-VL (SEQ ID NO:30)

```
  1       DIELTQPPSV SVAPGQTARI SCSGDALGDK YASWYQQKPG QAPVLVIYDD
 51       SDRPSGIPER FSGSNSGNTA TLTISGTQAE DEADYYCQSY DFDFAVFGGG
101       TKLTVLGQ
```

PRO-021-VL(SEQ ID NO:31)

```
  1       DIVMTQSPDS LAVSLGERAT INCRSSQSVL YSSNNKNYLA WYQQKPGQPP
 51       KLLIYWASTR ESGVPDRFSG SGSGTDFTLT ISSLQAEDVA VYYCQQYDSI
101       PYTFGQGTKV EIKRT
```

PRO-024-VL(SEQ ID NO:32)

```
  1       DIVLTQSPAT LSLSPGERAT LSCRASQSVS SSYLAWYQQK PGQAPRLLIY
 51       GASSRATGVP ARFSGSGSGT DFTLTISSLE PEDFATYYCQ QMSNYPDTFG
101       QGTKVEIKRT
```

MS-Pro-26-VL (SEQ ID NO:33)

```
  1       DIALTQPASV SGSPGQSITI SCTGTSSDVG GYNYVSWYQQ HPGKAPKLMI
 51       YDVSNRPSGV SNRFSGSKSG NTASLTISGL QAEDEADYYC QSYDNNSDVV
101       FGGGTKLTVL GQ
```

PRO-029-VL (SEQ ID NO:34)

```
  1       DIVLTQSPAT LSLSPGERAT LSCRASQSVS SSYLAWYQQK PGQAPRLLIY
 51       GASSRATGVP ARFSGSGSGT DFTLTISSLE PEDFATYYCQ QTNNAPVTFG
101       QGTKVEIKRT
```

PRO-054-VL (SEQ ID NO:35)

```
  1       DIELTQPPSV SVAPGQTARI SCSGDALGDK YASWYQQKPG QAPVLVIYDD
 51       SDRPSGIPER FSGSNSGNTA TLTISGTQAE DEADYYCQSY DYFKLVFGGG
101       TKLTVLGQ
```

PRO-055-VL (SEQ ID NO:36)

```
  1       DIALTQPASV SGSPGQSITI SCTGTSSDVG GYNYVSWYQQ HPGKAPKLMI
 51       YDVSNRPSGV SNRFSGSKSG NTASLTISGL QAEDEADYYC QSYDMYNYIV
101     FGGGTKLTVL GQ
```

The corresponding polynucleotide sequences of the V_H and V_L domains have SEQ ID NOS: 57-65 and SEQ ID NOS: 66-74, respectively.

<SEQ ID NO:57;DNA> PRO-001 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGCAACAGTCTGGTCCGGGCCTGGTGAAACCGAGCCAAACCCTGAGCCTGACCTGTG
CGATTTCCGGAGATAGCGTGAGCAGCAACAGCGCGGCGTGGAACTGGATTCGCCAGTCTCCTGGGCG
TGGCCTCGAGTGGCTGGGCCGTACCTATTATCGTAGCAAATGGTATAACGATTATGCGGTGAGCGTG
AAAAGCCGGATTACCATCAACCCGGATACTTCGAAAAACCAGTTTAGCCTGCAACTGAACAGCGTGA
CCCCGGAAGATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTTCTTATTATCCTGATTTTGATTATTGGGGCCA
AGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:58;DNA> PRO-002 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGGTTCAGAGCGGCGCGGAAGTGAAAAAACCGGGCGCGAGCGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCA
AAGCCTCCGGATATACCTTTACCAGCTATTATATGCACTGGGTCCGCCAAGCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCT
CGAGTGGATGGGCTGGATTAACCCGAATAGCGGCGGCACGAACTACGCGCAGAAGTTTCAGGGCCG
GGTGACCATGACCCGTGATACCAGCATTAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAGCAGCCTGCGTAGCGAA
GATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTGATTTTCTTGGTTATGAGTTTGATTATTGGGGCCAAGGCA
CCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:59;DNA> PRO-012 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGAAAGAAAGCGGCCCGGCCCTGGTGAAACCGACCCAAACCCTGACCCTGACCTGTA
CCTTTTCCGGATTTAGCCTGTCCACGTCTGGCGTTGGCGTGGGCTGGATTCGCCAGCCGCCTGGGAA
AGCCCTCGAGTGGCTGGCTCTGATTGATTGGGATGATGATAAGTATTATAGCACCAGCCTGAAAAC
GCGTCTGACCATTAGCAAAGATACTTCGAAAAATCAGGTGGTGCTGACTATGACCAACATGGACCCG
GTGGATACGGCCACCTATTATTGCGCGCGTTATCATTCTTGGTATGAGATGGGTTATTATGGTTCTA
CTGTTGGTTATATGTTTGATTATTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:60;DNA> PRO-021 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGGTTCAGTCTGGCGCGGAAGTGAAAAAACCGGGCAGCAGCGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCA
AAGCCTCCGGAGGCACTTTTAGCAGCTATGCGATTAGCTGGGTGCGCCAAGCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCT
CGAGTGGATGGGCGGCATTATTCCGATTTTTGGCACGGCGAACTACGCGCAGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGG
GTGACCATTACCGCGGATGAAAGCACCAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAGCAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAG
ATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTGATAATTGGTTTAAGCCTTTTTCTGATGTTTGGGGCCAAGG
CACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:61;DNA > PRO-024 VH
CGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCAAAGCCTCCGGAGGCACTTTTAGCAGCTATGCGATTAGCTGGGTGCGCCAA
GCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCTCGAGTGGATGGGCGGCATTATTCCGATTTTTGGCACGGCGAACTACGCGC
AGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGGGTGACCATTACCGCGGATGAAAGCACCAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAG
CAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAGATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTGTTAATCATTGGACTTATACTTTT
GATTATTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:62;DNA> PRO-026 VH
CGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCAAAGCCTCCGGATATACCTTTACCAGCTATTATATGCACTGGGTCCGCCAA
GCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCTCGAGTGGATGGGCTGGATTAACCCGAATAGCGGCGGCACGAACTACGCGC
AGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGGGTGACCATGACCCGTGATACCAGCATTAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAG
CAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAGATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTGGTTATTGGTATGCTTATTTTACT
TATATTAATTATGGTTATTTTGATAATTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:63;DNA> PRO-029 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGGTTCAGAGCGGCGCGGAAGTGAAAAAACCGGGCGCGAGCGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCA
AAGCCTCCGGATATACCTTTACCAGCTATTATATGCACTGGGTCCGCCAAGCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCT
CGAGTGGATGGGCTGGATTAACCCGAATAGCGGCGGCACGAACTACGCGCAGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGG

GTGACCATGACCCGTGATACCAGCATTAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAGCAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAG
ATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTACTTGGCAGTATTCTTATTTTTATTATCTTGATGGTGGTTA
TTATTTTGATATTTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:64;DNA> PRO-054 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGGTTCAGAGCGGCGCGGAAGTGAAAAAACCGGGCGCGAGCGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCA
AAGCCTCCGGATATACCTTTACCAGCTATTATATGCACTGGGTCCGCCAAGCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCT
CGAGTGGATGGGCTGGATTAACCCGAATAGCGGCGGCACGAACTACGCGCAGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGG
GTGACCATGACCCGTGATACCAGCATTAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAGCAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAG
ATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTAATATGGCTTATACTAATTATCAGTATGTTAATATGCCTCA
TTTTGATTATTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:65;DNA> PRO-055 VH
CAGGTGCAATTGGTTCAGAGCGGCGCGGAAGTGAAAAAACCGGGCGCGAGCGTGAAAGTGAGCTGCA
AAGCCTCCGGATATACCTTTACCAGCTATTATATGCACTGGGTCCGCCAAGCCCCTGGGCAGGGTCT
CGAGTGGATGGGCTGGATTAACCCGAATAGCGGCGGCACGAACTACGCGCAGAAGTTTCAGGGCCGG
GTGACCATGACCCGTGATACCAGCATTAGCACCGCGTATATGGAACTGAGCAGCCTGCGTAGCGAAG
ATACGGCCGTGTATTATTGCGCGCGTTCTATGAATTCTACTATGTATTGGTATCTTCGTCGTGTTCT
TTTTGATCATTGGGGCCAAGGCACCCTGGTGACGGTTAGCTCAGC

<SEQ ID NO:66> PRO-001 VL
GATATCGAACTGACCCAGCCGCCTTCAGTGAGCGTTGCACCAGGTCAGACCGCGCGTATCTCGTGTA
GCGGCGATGCGCTGGGCGATAAATACGCGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCCGGGCAGGCGCCAGTTCT
GGTGATTTATGATGATTCTGACCGTCCCTCAGGCATCCCGGAACGCTTTAGCGGATCCAACAGCGGC
AACACCGCGACCCTGACCATTAGCGGCACTCAGGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATTGCCAGAGCT
ATGACGGTCCTGATCTTTGGGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCAG

<SEQ ID NO:67;DNA> PRO-002 VL
GATATCGAACTGACCCAGCCGCCTTCAGTGAGCGTTGCACCAGGTCAGACCGCGCGTATCTCGTGTA
GCGGCGATGCGCTGGGCGATAAATACGCGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCCGGGCAGGCGCCAGTTCT
GGTGATTTATGATGATTCTGACCGTCCCTCAGGCATCCCGGAACGCTTTAGCGGATCCAACAGCGGC
AACACCGCGACCCTGACCATTAGCGGCACTCAGGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATTGCCAGAGCT
ATGACTATTCTGCTGATTATGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCAG

<SEQ ID NO:68;DNA> PRO-012 VL
GATATCGAACTGACCCAGCCGCCTTCAGTGAGCGTTGCACCAGGTCAGACCGCGCGTATCTCGTGTA
GCGGCGATGCGCTGGGCGATAAATACGCGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCCGGGCAGGCGCCAGTTCT
GGTGATTTATGATGATTCTGACCGTCCCTCAGGCATCCCGGAACGCTTTAGCGGATCCAACAGCGGC
AACACCGCGACCCTGACCATTAGCGGCACTCAGGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATTGCCAGAGCT
ATGACTTTGATTTTGCTGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCAG

<SEQ ID NO:69;DNA> PRO-021 VL
GATATCGTGATGACCCAGAGCCCGGATAGCCTGGCGGTGAGCCTGGGCGAACGTGCGACCATTAACT
GCAGAAGCAGCCAGAGCGTGCTGTATAGCAGCAACAACAAAAACTATCTGGCGTGGTACCAGCAGAA
ACCAGGTCAGCCGCCGAAACTATTAATTTATTGGGCATCCACCCGTGAAAGCGGGGTCCCGGATCGT
TTTAGCGGCTCTGGATCCGGCACTGATTTTACCCTGACCATTTCGTCCCTGCAAGCTGAAGACGTGG
CGGTGTATTATTGCCAGCAGTATGATTCTATTCCTTATACCTTTGGCCAGGGTACGAAAGTTGAAAT
TAAACGTACG

<SEQ ID NO:70;DNA> PRO-024 VL
GATATCGTGCTGACCCAGAGCCCGGCGACCCTGAGCCTGTCTCCGGGCGAACGTGCGACCCTGAGCT
GCAGAGCGAGCCAGAGCGTGAGCAGCAGCTATCTGGCGTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCAGGTCAAGCACC
GCGTCTATTAATTTATGGCGCGAGCAGCCGTGCAACTGGGGTCCCGGCGCGTTTTAGCGGCTCTGGA

TCCGGCACGGATTTTACCCTGACCATTAGCAGCCTGGAACCTGAAGACTTTGCGACTTATTATTGCC
AGCAGATGTCTAATTATCCTGATACCTTTGGCCAGGGTACGAAAGTTGAAATTAAACGTACG

<SEQ ID NO:71;DNA> PRO-026 VL
GATATCGCACTGACCCAGCCAGCTTCAGTGAGCGGCTCACCAGGTCAGAGCATTACCATCTCGTGTA
CGGGTACTAGCAGCGATGTGGGCGGCTATAACTATGTGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGCATCCCGGGAAGGC
GCCGAAACTGATGATTTATGATGTGAGCAACCGTCCCTCAGGCGTGAGCAACCGTTTTAGCGGATCC
AAAAGCGGCAACACCGCGAGCCTGACCATTAGCGGCCTGCAAGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATT
GCCAGAGCTATGACAATAATTCTGATGTTGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCA
G

<SEQ ID NO:72;DNA> PRO-029 VL
GATATCGTGCTGACCCAGAGCCCGGCGACCCTGAGCCTGTCTCCGGGCGAACGTGCGACCCTGAGCT
GCAGAGCGAGCCAGAGCGTGAGCAGCAGCTATCTGGCGTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCAGGTCAAGCACC
GCGTCTATTAATTTATGGCGCGAGCAGCCGTGCAACTGGGGTCCCGGCGCGTTTTAGCGGCTCTGGA
TCCGGCACGGATTTTACCCTGACCATTAGCAGCCTGGAACCTGAAGACTTTGCGACTTATTATTGCC
AGCAGACTAATAATGCTCCTGTTACCTTTGGCCAGGGTACGAAAGTTGAAATTAAACGTACG

<SEQ ID NO:73;DNA> PRO-054 VL
GATATCGAACTGACCCAGCCGCCTTCAGTGAGCGTTGCACCAGGTCAGACCGCGCGTATCTCGTGTA
GCGGCGATGCGCTGGGCGATAAATACGCGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGAAACCCGGGCAGGCGCCAGTTCT
GGTGATTTATGATGATTCTGACCGTCCCTCAGGCATCCCGGAACGCTTTAGCGGATCCAACAGCGGC
AACACCGCGACCCTGACCATTAGCGGCACTCAGGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATTGCCAGAGCT
ATGACTATTTTAAGCTTGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCAG

<SEQ ID NO:74;DNA> PRO-055 VL
GATATCGCACTGACCCAGCCAGCTTCAGTGAGCGGCTCACCAGGTCAGAGCATTACCATCTCGTGTA
CGGGTACTAGCAGCGATGTGGGCGGCTATAACTATGTGAGCTGGTACCAGCAGCATCCCGGGAAGGC
GCCGAAACTGATGATTTATGATGTGAGCAACCGTCCCTCAGGCGTGAGCAACCGTTTTAGCGGATCC
AAAAGCGGCAACACCGCGAGCCTGACCATTAGCGGCCTGCAAGCGGAAGACGAAGCGGATTATTATT
GCCAGAGCTATGACATGTATAATTATATTGTGTTTGGCGGCGGCACGAAGTTAACCGTTCTTGGCCA
G

In yet another preferred embodiment the pharmaceutical composition comprises a single chain Fv molecule (ScFv) having SEQ ID NO:37, having corresponding polynucleotide sequence SEQ ID NO:38, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. The respective polypeptide and polynucleotide sequences are presented herein:

PRO-001 ScFv polypeptide (SEQ ID NO:37)
MLTCAISGNS VSSNSAAWNW IRQSPGRGLE WLGRTYYRSK WYNDYAVSVK
SRITINPDTS KNQFSLQLNS VTPEDTAVYY CARSYYPDFD YWGQGTLVTV
SSAGGGSGGG GSGGGGSGGG GSDIELTQPP SVSVAPGQTA RISCSGDALG
DKYASWYQQK PGQAPVLVIY DDSDRPSGIP ERFSGSNSGN TATLTISGTQ
AEDEADYYCQ SYDGPDLWVF GGGTKLTVLG QEFDYKMTMT KRAVEPPAV

PRO-001 ScFv DNA (SEQ ID NO:38)
1 ATGCTGACCT GTGCGATTTC CGGGAATAGC GTGAGCAGCA ACAGCGCGGC
GTGGAACTGG ATTCGCCAGT CTCCTGGGCG TGGCCTCGAG TGGCTGGGCC GTACCTATTA
TCGTAGCAAA TGGTATAACG ATTATGCGGT GAGCGTGAAA AGCCGGATTA CCATCAACCC
GGATACTTCG AAAAACCAGT TTAGCCTGCA ACTGAACAGC GTGACCCCGG AAGATACGGC
CGTGTATTAT TGCGCGCGTT CTTATTATCC TGATTTTGAT TATTGGGGCC AAGGCACCCT

GGTGACGGTT AGCTCAGCGG GTGGCGGTTC TGGCGGCGGT GGGAGCGGTG GCGGTGGTTC
TGGCGGTGGT GGTTCCGATA TCGAACTGAC CCAGCCGCCT TCAGTGAGCG TTGCACCAGG
TCAGACCGCG CGTATCTCGT GTAGCGGCGA TGCGCTGGGC GATAAATACG CGAGCTGGTA
CCAGCAGAAA CCCGGGCAGG CGCCAGTTCT GGTGATTTAT GATGATTCTG ACCGTCCCTC
AGGCATCCCG GAACGCTTTA GCGGATCCAA CAGCGGCAAC ACCGCGACCC TGACCATTAG
CGGCACTCAG GCGGAAGACG AAGCGGATTA TTATTGCCAG AGCTATGACG GTCCTGATCT
TTGGGTGTTT GGCGGCGGCA CGAAGTTAAC CGTTCTTGGC CAGGAATTCG ACTATAAGAT
GACGATGACA AAGCGCGCCG TGGAGCCACC CGCAGTTTGA

Table 3: V_H-CDR3 and corresponding V_L-CDR3 polynucleotide sequence

HuCAL® - Clone	V_H-CDR3	V_L-CDR3
PRO-001	TCTTATTATC CTGATTTTGA TTAT (SEQ ID NO:39)	CAGAGCTATG ACGGTCCTGA TCTTTGG (SEQ ID NO:48)
PRO-002	GATTTTCTTG GTTATGAGTT TGATTAT (SEQ ID NO:40)	CAGAGCTATG ACTATTCTGC TGATTAT (SEQ ID NO:49)
PRO-012	TATCATTCTT GGTATGAGAT GGGTTATTAT GGTTCTACTG TTGGTTATAT GTTTGATTAT (SEQ ID NO:41)	CAGAGCTATG ACTTTGATTT TGCT (SEQ ID NO:50)
PRO-021	GATAATTGGT TTAAGCCTTT TTCTGATGTT(SEQ ID NO:42)	CAGCAGTATG ATTCTATTCC TTAT (SEQ ID NO:51)
PRO-024	GTTAATCATT GGACTTATAC TTTTGATTAT (SEQ ID NO:43)	CAGCAGATGT CTAATTATCC TGAT (SEQ ID NO:52)
PRO-026	GGTTATTGGT ATGCTTATTT TACTTATATT AATTATGGTT ATTTTGATAAT(SEQ ID NO:44)	CAGAGCTATG ACAATAATTC TGATGTT (SEQ ID NO:53)
PRO-029	ACTTGGCAGT ATTCTTATTT TTATTATCTT GATGGTGGTT ATTATTTTGA TATT (SEQ ID NO:45)	CAGCAGACTA ATAATGCTCC TGTT (SEQ ID NO:54)
PRO-054	AATATGGCTT ATACTAATTA TCAGTATGTT AATATGCCTC ATTTTGATTA T (SEQ ID NO:46)	CAGAGCTATG ACTATTTTAA GCTT (SEQ ID NO:55)
PRO-055	TCTATGAATT CTACTATGTAT TGGTATCTTC GTCGTGTTCTT TTTGATCAT (SEQ ID NO:47)	CAGAGCTATG ACATGTATAA TTATATT (SEQ ID NO:56)

Antibodies

Antibodies, or immunoglobulins, comprise two heavy chains linked together by disulfide bonds and two light chains, each light chain being linked to a respective heavy chain by disulfide bonds in a "Y" shaped configuration. Proteolytic digestion of an antibody yields Fv (Fragment variable and Fc (fragment crystalline) domains. The antigen binding domains, Fab, include regions where the polypeptide sequence varies. The term $F(ab')_2$ represents two Fab' arms linked together by disulfide bonds. The central axis of the

antibody is termed the Fc fragment. Each heavy chain has at one end a variable domain (V_H) followed by a number of constant domains (C_H). Each light chain has a variable domain (V_L) at one end and a constant domain (C_L) at its other end, the light chain variable domain being aligned with the variable domain of the heavy chain and the light chain constant domain being aligned with the first constant domain of the heavy chain (CH1).

The variable domains of each pair of light and heavy chains form the antigen binding site. The domains on the light and heavy chains have the same general structure and each domain comprises four framework regions, whose sequences are relatively conserved, joined by three hypervariable domains known as complementarity determining regions (CDR1-3). These domains contribute specificity and affinity of the antigen binding site.

The isotype of the heavy chain (gamma, alpha, delta, epsilon or mu) determines immunoglobulin class (IgG, IgA, IgD, IgE or IgM, respectively). The light chain is either of two isotypes (kappa, κ or lambda, λ) found in all antibody classes.

It should be understood that when the terms "antibody" or "antibodies" are used, this is intended to include intact antibodies, such as polyclonal antibodies or monoclonal antibodies (mAbs), as well as proteolytic fragments thereof such as the Fab or $F(ab')_2$ fragments. Further included within the scope of the invention are chimeric antibodies; human and humanized antibodies; recombinant and engineered antibodies, and fragments thereof. Furthermore, the DNA encoding the variable region of the antibody can be inserted into the DNA encoding other antibodies to produce chimeric antibodies (see, for example, US patent 4,816,567). Single chain antibodies fall within the scope of the present invention. Single chain antibodies can be single chain composite polypeptides having antigen binding capabilities and comprising amino acid sequences homologous or analogous to the variable regions of an immunoglobulin light and heavy chain (linked V_H-V_L or single chain Fv (ScFv)). Both V_H and V_L may copy natural monoclonal antibody sequences or one or both of the chains may comprise a CDR-FR construct of the type described in US patent 5,091,513, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference. The separate polypeptides analogous to the variable regions of the light and heavy chains are held together by a polypeptide linker. Methods of production of such single chain antibodies, particularly where the DNA encoding the polypeptide structures of the V_H and V_L chains are known, may be accomplished in accordance with the methods described, for example,

in US patents 4,946,778, 5,091,513 and 5,096,815, the entire contents of each of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Additionally, CDR grafting may be performed to alter certain properties of the antibody molecule including affinity or specificity. A non-limiting example of CDR grafting is disclosed in US patent 5,225,539.

A "molecule having the antigen-binding portion of an antibody" as used herein is intended to include not only intact immunoglobulin molecules of any isotype and generated by any animal cell line or microorganism, but also the antigen-binding reactive fraction thereof, including, but not limited to, the Fab fragment, the Fab' fragment, the $F(ab')_2$ fragment, the variable portion of the heavy and/or light chains thereof, Fab miniantibodies (see WO 93/15210, US patent application 08/256,790, WO 96/13583, US patent application 08/817,788, WO 96/37621, US patent application 08/999,554, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference), dimeric bispecific miniantibodies (see Muller, et al, 1998) and chimeric or single-chain antibodies incorporating such reactive fraction, as well as any other type of molecule or cell in which such antibody reactive fraction has been physically inserted, such as a chimeric T-cell receptor or a T-cell having such a receptor, or molecules developed to deliver therapeutic moieties by means of a portion of the molecule containing such a reactive fraction. Such molecules may be provided by any known technique, including, but not limited to, enzymatic cleavage, peptide synthesis or recombinant techniques.

The term "Fc" as used herein is meant as that portion of an immunoglobulin molecule (Fragment crystallizable) that mediates phagocytosis, triggers inflammation and targets Ig to particular tissues; the Fc portion is also important in complement activation.

In one embodiment of the invention, a chimera comprising a fusion of the extracellular domain of the RPTK and an immunoglobulin constant domain can be constructed useful for assaying for ligands for the receptor and for screening for antibodies and fragments thereof

The "extracellular domain" when used herein refers the polypeptide sequence of the FGFR3 disclosed herein which are normally positioned to the outside of the cell. The extracellular domain encompasses polypeptide sequences in which part of or all of the adjacent (C-terminal) hydrophobic transmembrane and intracellular sequences of the mature FGFR3 have been deleted. Thus, the extracellular domain-containing polypeptide

can comprise the extracellular domain and a part of the transmembrane domain. Alternatively, in the preferred embodiment, the polypeptide comprises only the extracellular domain of the FGFR3. The truncated extracellular domain is generally soluble. The skilled practitioner can readily determine the extracellular and transmembrane domains of the FGFR3 by aligning it with known RPTK (receptor protein tyrosine kinases) amino acid sequences for which these domains have been delineated. Alternatively, the hydrophobic transmembrane domain can be readily delineated based on a hydrophobicity plot of the polypeptide sequence. The extracellular domain is N-terminal to the transmembrane domain.

The term "epitope" is meant to refer to that portion of any molecule capable of being bound by an antibody or a fragment thereof which can also be recognized by that antibody. Epitopes or antigenic determinants usually consist of chemically active surface groupings of molecules such as amino acids or sugar side chains and have specific three-dimensional structural characteristics as well as specific charge characteristics.

An "antigen" is a molecule or a portion of a molecule capable of being bound by an antibody which is additionally capable of inducing an animal to produce antibody capable of binding to an epitope of that antigen. An antigen may have one or more than one epitope. The specific reaction referred to above is meant to indicate that the antigen will react, in a highly selective manner, with its corresponding antibody and not with the multitude of other antibodies which may be evoked by other antigens.

A "neutralizing antibody" as used herein refers to a molecule having an antigen binding site to a specific receptor capable of reducing or inhibiting (blocking) activity or signaling through a receptor, as determined by in vivo or in vitro assays, as per the specification.

A "monoclonal antibody" or "mAb" is a substantially homogeneous population of antibodies to a specific antigen. mAbs may be obtained by methods known to those skilled in the art. See, for example Kohler et al (1975); US patent 4,376,110; Ausubel et al (1987-1999); Harlow et al (1988); and Colligan et al (1993), the contents of which references are incorporated entirely herein by reference. The mAbs of the present invention may be of any immunoglobulin class including IgG, IgM, IgE, IgA, and any subclass thereof. A hybridoma producing an mAb may be cultivated in vitro or in vivo. High titers of mAbs can be obtained in in vivo production where cells from the individual hybridomas are injected intraperitoneally into pristine-primed Balb/c mice to produce ascites fluid

containing high concentrations of the desired mAbs. MAbs of isotype IgM or IgG may be purified from such ascites fluids, or from culture supernatants, using column chromatography methods well known to those of skill in the art.

Chimeric antibodies are molecules, the different portions of which are derived from different animal species, such as those having a variable region derived from a murine mAb and a human immunoglobulin constant region. Antibodies which have variable region framework residues substantially from human antibody (termed an acceptor antibody) and complementarity determining regions substantially from a mouse antibody (termed a donor antibody) are also referred to as humanized antibodies. Chimeric antibodies are primarily used to reduce immunogenicity in application and to increase yields in production, for example, where murine mAbs have higher yields from hybridomas but higher immunogenicity in humans, such that human/murine chimeric mAbs are used. Chimeric antibodies and methods for their production are known in the art (Better et al, 1988; Cabilly et al, 1984; Harlow et al, 1988; Liu et al, 1987; Morrison et al, 1984; Boulianne et al, 1984; Neuberger et al, 1985; Sahagan et al , 1986; Sun et al, 1987; Cabilly et al; European Patent Applications 125023, 171496, 173494, 184187, 173494, PCT patent applications WO 86/01533, WO 97/02671, WO 90/07861, WO 92/22653 and US patents 5,693,762, 5,693,761, 5,585,089, 5,530,101 and 5,225,539). These references are hereby incorporated by reference.

Besides the conventional method of raising antibodies *in vivo*, antibodies can be generated *in vitro* using phage display technology. Such a production of recombinant antibodies is much faster compared to conventional antibody production and they can be generated against an enormous number of antigens. In contrast, in the conventional method, many antigens prove to be non-immunogenic or extremely toxic, and therefore cannot be used to generate antibodies in animals. Moreover, affinity maturation (i.e., increasing the affinity and specificity) of recombinant antibodies is very simple and relatively fast. Finally, large numbers of different antibodies against a specific antigen can be generated in one selection procedure. To generate recombinant monoclonal antibodies one can use various methods all based on phage display libraries to generate a large pool of antibodies with different antigen recognition sites. Such a library can be made in several ways: One can generate a synthetic repertoire by cloning synthetic CDR3 regions in a pool of heavy chain germline genes and thus generating a large antibody repertoire, from which

recombinant antibody fragments with various specificities can be selected. One can use the lymphocyte pool of humans as starting material for the construction of an antibody library. It is possible to construct naive repertoires of human IgM antibodies and thus create a human library of large diversity. This method has been widely used successfully to select a large number of antibodies against different antigens. Protocols for bacteriophage library construction and selection of recombinant antibodies are provided in the well-known reference text Current Protocols in Immunology, Colligan et al (Eds.), John Wiley & Sons, Inc. (1992-2000), Chapter 17, Section 17.1.

In another aspect, the present invention provides methods of preventing, attenuating or treating the symptoms of a T-cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor. A soluble receptor, also known as a secreted receptor, of the present invention comprises FGFR3 extracellular ligand binding sequences. The soluble receptor is able to freely circulate in the body and is useful for targeting, for example, a FGFR3 ligand. Without wishing to be bound by theory the soluble receptor binds the ligand, effectively inactivating it, since the FGFR3 ligand is then no longer able to bind with its biologic target in the body. An even more potent antagonist consists of two soluble receptors fused together to a specific portion of an immunoglobulin molecule (Fc fragment). This produces a dimer, known as a fusion protein, composed of two soluble receptors which have a high affinity for the target, and a prolonged half-life. An example of this type of molecule is Enbrel® (etanercept) a dimeric fusion protein consisting of the extracellular ligand-binding portion of the human 75 kilodalton (p75) tumor necrosis factor receptor (TNFR) linked to the Fc portion of human IgG1, for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. The soluble receptor is produced by methods known in the art, including recombinant DNA technology and enzymatic techniques. In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. According to certain embodiments of the present invention a small molecule tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) having FGFR3 specificity is useful for preventing, attenuating or treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific peptide inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. A peptide inhibitor includes FGFR3 specific peptides, peptide analogs having amino acid sequence derived from the extracellular portion of the fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3) and peptidomimetics based on the structure of such peptides.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. RNA inhibition (RNAi) is based on antisense modulation of FGFR3 in cells and tissues comprising contacting the cells and tissues with at least one antisense compound, including but not limited to double stranded RNA, (dsRNA), small interfering RNA (siRNA), ribozymes and locked nucleic acids (LNAs), and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. In certain specific embodiments the RNA inhibiting molecule is an antisense oligonucleotide or an oligonucleotide mimetic comprising from about 8 to about 50 nucleotides. International patent application WO 03/023004 discloses antisense compounds, compositions and methods for modulating the expression of FGFR3. Methods of using these compounds for diseases associated with FGFR3, such as skeletal disorders and certain cancers, has been disclosed.

In another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating a T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. DNA vaccination provides an effective means of long term antigen expression *in vivo* for the generation of both humoral and cellular immune responses. According to various embodiments of the present invention the DNA vaccines encode active fragments of FGFR3, having SEQ ID NO:75. The preferred polynucleotide fragments encode the extracellular domain polypeptide of FGFR3, in particular amino acids 1-375 or fragments thereof. The FGFR3 according to the present invention is preferably human, however other mammalian FGFR3 proteins are within the scope of the invention.

The amino acid sequence of FGFR3 IIIb isoform (NCBI access no: P22607) is denoted herein SEQ ID NO:75.

MGAPACALAL CVAVAIVAGA SSESLGTEQR VVGRAAEVPG PEPGQQEQLV FGSGDAVELS
CPPPGGGPMG PTVWVKDGTG LVPSERVLVG PQRLQVLNAS HEDSGAYSCR QRLTQRVLCH
FSVRVTDAPS SGDDEDGEDE AEDTGVDTGA PYWTRPERMD KKLLAVPAAN TVRFRCPAAG
NPTPSISWLK NGREFRGEHR IGGIKLRHQQ WSLVMESVVP SDRGNYTCVV ENKFGSIRQT
YTLDVLERSP HRPILQAGLP ANQTAVLGSD VEFHCKVYSD AQPHIQWLKH VEVNGSKVGP
DGTPYVTVLK VSLESNASMS SNTPLVRIAR LSSGEGPTLA NVSELELPAD PKWELSRARL
TLGKPLGEGC FGQVVMAEAI GIDKDRAAKP VTVAVKMLKD DATDKDLSDL VSEMEMMKMI
GKHKNIINLL GACTQGGPLY VLVEYAAKGN LREFLRARRP PGLDYSFDTC KPPEEQLTFK
DLVSCAYQVA RGMEYLASQK CIHRDLAARN VLVTEDNVMK IADFGLARDV HNLDYYKKTT
NGRLPVKWMA PEALFDRVYT HQSDVWSFGV LLWEIFTLGG SPYPGIPVEE LFKLLKEGHR
MDKPANCTHD LYMIMRECWH AAPSQRPTFK QLVEDLDRVL TVTSTDEYLD LSAPFEQYSP
GGQDTPSSSS SGDDSVFAHD LLPPAPPSSG GSRT

The corresponding polynucleotide sequence denoted herein SEQ ID NO:76 is presented below:

ATGGGCGCCCC TGCCTGCGCC CTCGCGCTCT GCGTGGCCGT GGCCATCGTG GCCGGCGCCT
CCTCGGAGTC CTTGGGGACG GAGCAGCGCG TCGTGGGGCG AGCGGCAGAA GTCCCGGGCC
CAGAGCCCGG CCAGCAGGAG CAGTTGGTCT TCGGCAGCGG GGATGCTGTG GAGCTGAGCT
GTCCCCCGCC CGGGGGTGGT CCCATGGGGC CCACTGTCTG GGTCAAGGAT GGCACAGGGC
TGGTGCCCTC GGAGCGTGTC CTGGTGGGGC CCCAGCGGCT GCAGGTGCTG AATGCCTCCC
ACGAGGACTC CGGGGCCTAC AGCTGCCGGC AGCGGCTCAC GCAGCGCGTA CTGTGCCACT
TCAGTGTGCG GGTGACAGAC GCTCCATCCT CGGGAGATGA CGAAGACGGG GAGGACGAGG
CTGAGGACAC AGGTGTGGAC ACAGGGGCCC CTTACTGGAC ACGGCCCGAG CGGATGGACA
AGAAGCTGCT GGCCGTGCCG GCCGCCAACA CCGTCCGCTT CCGCTGCCCA GCCGCTGGCA
ACCCCACTCC CTCCATCTCC TGGCTGAAGA ACGGCAGGGA GTTCCGCGGC GAGCACCGCA
TTGGAGGCAT CAAGCTGCGG CATCAGCAGT GGAGCCTGGT CATGGAAAGC GTGGTGCCCT
CGGACCGCGG CAACTACACC TGCGTCGTGG AGAACAAGTT TGGCAGCATC CGGCAGACGT
ACACGCTGGA CGTGCTGGAG CGCTCCCCGC ACCGGCCCAT CCTGCAGGCG GGGCTGCCGG
CCAACCAGAC GGCGGTGCTG GGCAGCGACG TGGAGTTCCA CTGCAAGGTG TACAGTGACG
CACAGCCCCA CATCCAGTGG CTCAAGCACG TGGAGGTGAA CGGCAGCAAG GTGGGCCCGG
ACGGCACACC CTACGTTACC GTGCTCAAGG TGTCCCTGGA GTCCAACGCG TCCATGAGCT
CCAACACACC ACTGGTGCGC ATCGCAAGGC TGTCCTCAGG GGAGGGCCCC ACGCTGGCCA
ATGTCTCCGA GCTCGAGCTG CCTGCCGACC CCAAATGGGA GCTGTCTCGG GCCCGGCTGA
CCCTGGGCAA GCCCCTTGGG GAGGGCTGCT TCGGCCAGGT GGTCATGGCG GAGGCCATCG
GCATTGACAA GGACCGGGCC GCCAAGCCTG TCACCGTAGC CGTGAAGATG CTGAAAGACG
ATGCCACTGA CAAGGACCTG TCGGACCTGG TGTCTGAGAT GGAGATGATG AAGATGATCG
GGAAACACAA AAACATCATC AACCTGCTGG GCGCCTGCAC GCAGGGCGGG CCCCTGTACG
TGCTGGTGGA GTACGCGGCC AAGGGTAACC TGCGGGAGTT TCTGCGGGCG CGGCGGCCCC
CGGGCCTGGA CTACTCCTTC GACACCTGCA AGCCGCCCGA GGAGCAGCTC ACCTTCAAGG
ACCTGGTGTC CTGTGCCTAC CAGGTGGCCC GGGGCATGGA GTACTTGGCC TCCCAGAAGT
GCATCCACAG GGACCTGGCT GCCCGCAATG TGCTGGTGAC CGAGGACAAC GTGATGAAGA
TCGCAGACTT CGGGCTGGCC CGGGACGTGC ACAACCTCGA CTACTACAAG AAGACAACCA
ACGGCCGGCT GCCCGTGAAG TGGATGGCGC CTGAGGCCTT GTTTGACCGA GTCTACACTC
ACCAGAGTGA CGTCTGGTCC TTTGGGGTCC TGCTCTGGGA GATCTTCACG CTGGGGGGCT
CCCCGTACCC CGGCATCCCT GTGGAGGAGC TCTTCAAGCT GCTGAAGGAG GGCCACCGCA
TGGACAAGCC CGCCAACTGC ACACACGACC TGTACATGAT CATGCGGGAG TGCTGGCATG
CCGCGCCCTC CCAGAGGCCC ACCTTCAAGC AGCTGGTGGA GGACCTGGAC CGTGTCCTTA
CCGTGACGTC CACCGACGAG TACCTGGACC TGTCGGCGCC TTTCGAGCAG TACTCCCCGG

GTGGCCAGGA CACCCCCAGC TCCAGCTCCT CAGGGGACGA CTCCGTGTTT GCCCACGACC
TGCTGCCCCC GGCCCCACCC AGCAGTGGGG GCTCGCGGAC GTGA

In another aspect the present invention provides a method of treating a T cell mediated inflammatory disease by administering a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one FGFR3 antagonist wherein the antagonist is a FGFR3 specific heparin inhibitor or a heparin mimetic inhibitor. Heparin and other proteoglycans are known to be essential to growth factor binding to a receptor. In a non-limiting example, the present invention provides a heparin-like, polyanionic compound able to compete with heparin for binding to FGFR3.

Pharmacology

The present invention also contemplates pharmaceutical formulations, both for veterinary and for human medical use, which comprise as the active agent one or more of the FGFR3 antagonists described in the invention, for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prophylaxis of the conditions variously described herein.

In such pharmaceutical and medicament formulations, the active agent preferably is utilized together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carrier(s) therefore and optionally any other therapeutic ingredients. The carrier(s) must be pharmaceutically acceptable in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not unduly deleterious to the recipient thereof. The active agent is provided in an amount effective to achieve the desired pharmacological effect, as described above, and in a quantity appropriate to achieve the desired daily dose.

Typically, the molecules of the present invention comprising the antigen binding portion of an antibody will be suspended in a sterile saline solution for therapeutic uses. The pharmaceutical compositions may alternatively be formulated to control release of active ingredient (molecule comprising the antigen binding portion of an antibody) or to prolong its presence in a patient's system. Numerous suitable drug delivery systems are known and include, e.g., implantable drug release systems, hydrogels, hydroxymethylcellulose, microcapsules, liposomes, microemulsions, microspheres, and the like. Controlled release preparations can be prepared through the use of polymers to complex or adsorb the molecule according to the present invention. For example,

biocompatible polymers include matrices of poly(ethylene-co-vinyl acetate) and matrices of a polyanhydride copolymer of a stearic acid dimer and sebaric acid (Sherwood et al, 1992). The rate of release of the molecule according to the present invention, i.e., of an antibody or antibody fragment, from such a matrix depends upon the molecular weight of the molecule, the amount of the molecule within the matrix, and the size of dispersed particles (Saltzman et al., 1989 and Sherwood et al., 1992). Other solid dosage forms are described in Ansel et al., 1990 and Gennaro, 1990.

The pharmaceutical composition of this invention may be administered by any suitable means, such as orally, topically, intranasally, subcutaneously, intramuscularly, intravenously, intra-arterially, intraarticulary, intralesionally or parenterally. Ordinarily, intravenous (i.v.), intraarticular, topical or parenteral administration will be preferred.

It will be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the therapeutically effective amount of the molecule according to the present invention will depend, *inter alia* upon the administration schedule, the unit dose of molecule administered, whether the molecule is administered in combination with other therapeutic agents, the immune status and health of the patient, the therapeutic activity of the molecule administered and the judgment of the treating physician. As used herein, a "therapeutically effective amount" refers to the amount of a molecule required to alleviate one or more symptoms associated with a disorder being treated over a period of time.

Although an appropriate dosage of a molecule of the invention varies depending on the administration route, age, body weight, sex, or conditions of the patient, and should be determined by the physician in the end, in the case of oral administration, the daily dosage can generally be between about 0.01-500 mg, preferably about 0.01-50 mg, more preferably about 0.1-10 mg, per kg body weight. In the case of parenteral administration, the daily dosage can generally be between about 0.001-100 mg, preferably about 0.001-10 mg, more preferably about 0.01-1 mg, per kg body weight. The daily dosage can be administered, for example in regimens typical of 1-4 individual administration daily. Other preferred methods of administration include intraarticular administration of about 0.01-100 mg per kg body weight. Various considerations in arriving at an effective amount are described, e.g., in Goodman and Gilman's: The Pharmacological Bases of Therapeutics, 8th ed., Pergamon Press, 1990; and Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences, 17th ed., Mack Publishing Co., Easton, Pa., 1990.

The molecule of the present invention as an active ingredient is dissolved, dispersed or admixed in an excipient that is pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient as is well known. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, phosphate buffered saline (PBS), dextrose, glycerol, ethanol, or the like and combinations thereof. Other suitable carriers are well-known to those in the art. (See, for example, Ansel et al., 1990 and Gennaro, 1990). In addition, if desired, the composition can contain minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents.

The combined treatment of one or more of the molecules of the invention with an anti-inflammatory drug such as methotrexate or glucocorticoids may provide a more efficient treatment for inhibiting FGFR3 activity. In one embodiment, the pharmaceutical composition comprises the antibody, an anti-inflammatory drug and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Polynucleotides

The term "nucleic acid" and "polynucleotides" refers to molecules such as deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA), and, where appropriate, ribonucleic acid (RNA). The term should also be understood to include, as equivalents, analogs of either RNA or DNA made from nucleotide analogs, and, as applicable to the embodiment being described, single (sense or antisense) and double-stranded polynucleotides.

Within the scope of the present invention is a nucleic acid molecule encoding an FGFR3 antagonist useful for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment for the conditions described herein. The nucleic acid molecule contains a nucleotide sequence having at least 90% sequence identity, preferably about 95%, and more preferably about 97% identity to the above encoding nucleotide sequence having SEQ ID NOS: 34-66, as would well understood by those of skill in the art. In the hypervariable regions of the heavy chain and light chain, the nucleic acid molecule contains a nucleotide sequence having at least 50% sequence identity, preferably about 70% and more preferably about 80% identity the molecules having SEQ ID NOS: 39-56.

The invention also provides nucleic acids that hybridize under high stringency conditions to polynucleotides having SEQ ID NOs: 57-74 the complement thereof. As used herein, highly stringent conditions are those which are tolerant of up to about 5-25% sequence divergence, preferably about 5-15%. Without limitation, examples of highly

stringent (-10°C below the calculated Tm of the hybrid) conditions use a wash solution of 0.1 X SSC (standard saline citrate) and 0.5% SDS at the appropriate Ti below the calculated Tm of the hybrid. The ultimate stringency of the conditions is primarily due to the washing conditions, particularly if the hybridization conditions used are those which allow less stable hybrids to form along with stable hybrids. The wash conditions at higher stringency then remove the less stable hybrids. A common hybridization condition that can be used with the highly stringent to moderately stringent wash conditions described above is hybridization in a solution of 6 X SSC (or 6 X SSPE), 5 X Denhardt's reagent, 0.5% SDS, 100 μg/ml denatured, fragmented salmon sperm DNA at an appropriate incubation temperature Ti. See generally Sambrook *et al.*, Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2d edition, Cold Spring Harbor Press (1989)) for suitable high stringency conditions.

Stringency conditions are a function of the temperature used in the hybridization experiment and washes, the molarity of the monovalent cations in the hybridization solution and in the wash solution(s) and the percentage of formamide in the hybridization solution. In general, sensitivity by hybridization with a probe is affected by the amount and specific activity of the probe, the amount of the target nucleic acid, the detectability of the label, the rate of hybridization, and the duration of the hybridization. The hybridization rate is maximized at a Ti (incubation temperature) of 20-25°C below Tm for DNA:DNA hybrids and 10-15°C below Tm for DNA:RNA hybrids. It is also maximized by an ionic strength of about 1.5M Na^+. The rate is directly proportional to duplex length and inversely proportional to the degree of mismatching.

Specificity in hybridization, however, is a function of the difference in stability between the desired hybrid and "background" hybrids. Hybrid stability is a function of duplex length, base composition, ionic strength, mismatching, and destabilizing agents (if any).

The Tm of a perfect hybrid may be estimated for DNA:DNA hybrids using the equation of Meinkoth et al (1984), as

$$Tm = 81.5°C + 16.6 (\log M) + 0.41 (\%GC) - 0.61 (\% \text{ form}) - 500/L$$

and for DNA:RNA hybrids, as

$$Tm = 79.8°C + 18.5 (\log M) + 0.58 (\%GC) - 11.8 (\%GC)^2 - 0.56(\% \text{ form}) - 820/L$$

where M, molarity of monovalent cations, 0.01-0.4 M NaCl,

%GC, percentage of G and C nucleotides in DNA, 30%-75%,

% form, percentage formamide in hybridization solution, and

L, length hybrid in base pairs.

Tm is reduced by 0.5-1.5°C (an average of 1°C can be used for ease of calculation) for each 1% mismatching. The Tm may also be determined experimentally. As increasing length of the hybrid (L) in the above equations increases the Tm and enhances stability, the full-length rat gene sequence can be used as the probe.

Filter hybridization is typically carried out at 68°C, and at high ionic strength (e.g., 5 - 6 X SSC), which is non-stringent, and followed by one or more washes of increasing stringency, the last one being of the ultimately desired high stringency. The equations for Tm can be used to estimate the appropriate Ti for the final wash, or the Tm of the perfect duplex can be determined experimentally and Ti then adjusted accordingly.

The invention also provides for conservative amino acid variants of the molecules of the invention. Variants according to the invention also may be made that conserve the overall molecular structure of the encoded proteins. Given the properties of the individual amino acids comprising the disclosed protein products, some rational substitutions will be recognized by the skilled worker. Amino acid substitutions, *i.e.* "conservative substitutions," may be made, for instance, on the basis of similarity in polarity, charge, solubility, hydrophobicity, hydrophilicity, and/or the amphipathic nature of the residues involved.

For example: (a) nonpolar (hydrophobic) amino acids include alanine, leucine, isoleucine, valine, proline, phenylalanine, tryptophan, and methionine; (b) polar neutral amino acids include glycine, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, and glutamine; (c) positively charged (basic) amino acids include arginine, lysine, and histidine; and (d) negatively charged (acidic) amino acids include aspartic acid and glutamic acid. Substitutions typically may be made within groups (a)-(d). In addition, glycine and proline may be substituted for one another based on their ability to disrupt α-helices. Similarly, certain amino acids, such as alanine, cysteine, leucine, methionine, glutamic acid, glutamine, histidine and lysine are more commonly found in α helices, while valine, isoleucine, phenylalanine, tyrosine, tryptophan and threonine are more commonly found in β-pleated sheets. Glycine, serine, aspartic acid, asparagine, and proline are commonly

found in turns. Some preferred substitutions may be made among the following groups: (i) S and T; (ii) P and G; and (iii) A, V, L and 1. Given the known genetic code, and recombinant and synthetic DNA techniques, the skilled scientist readily can construct DNAs encoding the conservative amino acid variants.

Having now generally described the invention, the same will be more readily understood through reference to the following examples, which are provided by way of illustration and are not intended to be limiting of the present invention.

Having now fully described this invention, it will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the same can be performed within a wide range of equivalent parameters, concentrations, and conditions without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention and without undue experimentation.

While this invention has been described in connection with specific embodiments thereof, it will be understood that it is capable of further modifications. This application is intended to cover any variations, uses, or adaptations of the inventions following, in general, the principles of the invention and including such departures from the present disclosure as come within known or customary practice within the art to which the invention pertains and as may be applied to the essential features hereinbefore set forth as follows in the scope of the appended claims.

All references cited herein, including journal articles or abstracts, published or corresponding U.S. or foreign patent applications, issued U.S. or foreign patents, or any other references, are entirely incorporated by reference herein, including all data, tables, figures, and text presented in the cited references. Additionally, the entire contents of the references cited within the references cited herein are also entirely incorporated by references.

The foregoing description of the specific embodiments will so fully reveal the general nature of the invention that others can, by applying knowledge within the skill of the art (including the contents of the references cited herein), readily modify and/or adapt for various applications such specific embodiments, without undue experimentation, without departing from the general concept of the present invention. Therefore, such adaptations and modifications are intended to be within the meaning and range of equivalents of the disclosed embodiments, based on the teaching and guidance presented herein. It is to be

understood that the phraseology or terminology herein is for the purpose of description and not of limitation, such that the terminology or phraseology of the present specification is to be interpreted by the skilled artisan in light of the teachings and guidance presented herein, in combination with the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.

EXAMPLES

An important approach to regulating FGFR3 activity is the generation of reagents that block receptor signaling. Without wishing to be bound by theory, molecules which bind the extracellular domain of the receptor may inhibit the receptor by competing with FGF or heparin binding or, alternatively, by preventing receptor dimerization. Additionally, binding to the extracellular domain may accelerate receptor internalization and turnover.

Animals

All the experiments were performed under the supervision and guidelines of the Animal Welfare Committee.

Example 1: Collagen Induced Arthritis (CIA)

Murine collagen-induced arthritis (CIA) is considered a useful model for human RA since the two diseases share numerous pathologic, immunological, and genetic features. The CIA model in mice results in a symmetric polyarthritis in which bone and cartilage erosion typically occur, 2-4 weeks after immunization with naive type II collagen on complete Freud's adjuvant (CFA).

Male DBA/1 mice (8-10 weeks old) were subject to an intradermal injection at the base of the tail with 200μg type II collagen purified from bovine articular cartilage emulsified in CFA. The mice received a booster injection of 200μg type II collagen emulsified in CFA three weeks after the first dose.

The mice were checked daily and each animal with edema in one or more limbs was randomly assigned to one of several groups for further treatment. The thickness of each affected hind paw was measured with microcalipers. The results are expressed as a direct measure of paw width in millimeters.

Example 2: Treatment with FGFR3 antagonists

Each mouse was injected intraperitoneally on the day following disease onset (day 1) with 100 ug anti-FGFR3-ScFv or anti-FGFR3 Fab' or 20 mg/kg of a FGFR3 specific

tyrosine kinase inhibitor (TKI), followed by daily injections with 300µg anti-FGFR3 ScFv or anti-FGFR3 Fab' or with 20 mg/kg TKI.

Figure 1 shows the results of the inflammatory response to the various FGFR3 antagonists. Day 0 refers to the day of boost. The untreated animals (•) show a steady increase in paw edema until day 5 where it begins to stabilize at approximately 3mm. All the treated animal responded to the anti-FGFR3 treatment. The ScFv treated animals (▲) showed the the greatest reduction in paw edema over a 13 day period, to approximately 1.9 mm. The Fab treated animals (♦) showed a significant reduction as well.

Example 3: Delayed Type Hypersensitivity (DTH) Assessments

The mouse model for cutaneous delayed type hypersensitivity reactions was used to investigate the effects of FGFR3 antagonists on induced skin inflammation. Oxazolone solutions (2% and 0.5%) were prepared by dissolving 200 and 50 mg, respectively, of oxazolone in 8 ml of acetone and 2 ml of olive oil. Mice were challenged with oxazolone by topical application onto the abdomen of each mouse (100µl of 2% oxazolone) followed by 10µl of 0.5% oxazolone on the right ear after 6 days. Differences between right and left ear thickness, indicating DTH development, were measured after 24 hours using a microcaliper.

Figure 2 shows the results of the DTH assay. The CIA mice showed a strong inflammatory reaction to the collagen. The ScFv and TK treated mice exhibited no induction of edema. The Fab treated mice exhibit a strong reaction which, without wishing to be bound to a certain theory, may indicate an immune reaction to the Fab itself. The antibody is afully human protein that may elicit a reaction in this particular assay. These studies show that systemic administration of an anti-FGFR3 ScFv or TK inhibitor do not induce skin inflammation inthis model of experimentally-induced skin inflammation in mice.

Example 4: Interferon-γ (INF-γ) secretion assay

Interferon-γ secretion was determined in an ELISA assay. Leukocytes were isolated from mice spleens. One million (10^6) cells were incubated in medium containing serum for 24 hour, in a 24 well plate coated with anti-CD3 and anti-CD28 antibodies. Supernatant from each sample was collected and assayed for presence of INF-γ. The INF-γ, assay was performed as follows: 96 wells plates were coated with a monoclonal anti-INF-γ dissolved in boric buffer. Different volumes of supernatant were added to each well and incubated for

1 hour. IFN- γ was detected using anti-INF-γ mAb-biotin followed with alkaline phosphatase conjugated Strepavidin. PNPP substrate was added and the color intensity measured in ELISA reader at Absorbance 405nm.

Example 5: DNA Vaccines

PCT patent applications WO 00/06203 and WO 01/57056 describe a method for inducing protective immunity against multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis, respectively, the method comprising intramuscularly administering to a subject a naked DNA nucleic acid construct encoding a cytokine. In this experiment a naked DNA nucleic acid construct encoding FGFR3 extracellular domain or an active fragment thereof is administered in an animal model mimicking multiple sclerosis, as described in example 6 or in a experimental rat model of rheumatoid arthritis (Lider et al., 1987). Rats are immunized subcutaneously in the base-tail with 0.1 ml of CFA supplemented with 10 mg/ml heat-killed Mycobacterium tuberculosis H37Ra in oil (Difco laboratories Inc., Detroit, MI). Rats are monitored for clinical signs daily by an observer blind to the treatment protocol.

Example 6: Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE)

Experimental allergic encephalomyelitis (EAE) is an autoimmune neurological disease elicited by sensitization of the animals to myelin basic protein from the central nervous system. EAE is considered by many to represent a model of the human disease multiple sclerosis. The ability of compounds of the FGFR3 antagonists to prevent or attenuate the clinical symptoms of this autoimmune disease is tested.

EAE is induced using Lewis rats in which the disease displays onset of symptoms around day 10 after induction and spontaneous recovery around 18 days after induction of the disease. Eight-week old female Lewis rats are used in this model. The animals (5 per cage) are maintained on a 12-hour light/12 hour dark regimen, with food and water *ad libitum*. EAE was induced in these animals by immunization with purified guinea pig myelin basic protein emulsified in complete Freund's adjuvant. Guinea pig myelin basic protein (mbp) is prepared from spinal cord homogenates defatted with chloroform/ethanol and the isolated protein was purified using ion exchange chromatography. Each animal receives 50 micrograms of the purified protein. A solution of mbp (0.5 mg/ml) is emulsified with an equal volume of Complete Freund's Adjuvant containing 4 mg/ml of mycobacterium tuberculosis, and each animal receives 100 microliters (50 ul in each hind foot pad). Animals are treated with a single injection of anti-FGFR3 antibody or vehicle control administered intravenously in a

volume of 2 ml. The time of treatment was varied from day 10 to day 18, post induction of disease, with five animals per group.

The present invention is exemplified by certain animal disease models. These models are intended as a non-limitative example used for illustrative purposes of the principles of the invention.

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CLAIMS

1. A method for preventing and treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease comprising administering to an individual in need thereof a therapeutic amount of at least one FGFR 3 antagonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein said at least one FGFR3 antagonist is selected from a group consisting of a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3, a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 specific peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor and a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof.

3. The method according to claim 2 wherein said at least one FGFR3 antagonist is a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 binds to the extracellular domain of FGFR3.

5. The method according to claim 4 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 is a monoclonal antibody or proteolytic fragment thereof.

6. The method according to claim 5 wherein said monoclonal antibody or proteolytic fragment thereof is an anti-FGFR3 Fab.

7. The method according to claim 4 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 is a single chain Fv having SEQ ID NO:37.

8. The method according to claim 3 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H-CDR3 region selected from a group consisting of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:1-9 and a V_L-CDR3 regions selected from a group consisting of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:10-18.

9. The method according to claim 8 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H-CDR3 region having SEQ ID NO:1 and a V_L-CDR3 region having SEQ ID NO:10.

10. The method according to claim 3 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H region selected from a group of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:19-27 and a V_L region selected from the group of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:28-36.

11. The method according to claim 10 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H region having SEQ ID NO:19 and a V_L region having SEQ ID NO:28.

12. The method according to claim 1 wherein the T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease is selected from rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease, thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

13. The method according to claim 12 wherein the T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

14. Use of at least one FGFR 3 antagonist for the preparation of a medicament for preventing and treating T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease

15. Use according to claim 14 wherein said at least one FGFR3 antagonist is selected from a group consisting of a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3, a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 specific peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor and a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof.

16. Use according to claim 15 wherein said at least one FGFR3 antagonist is a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3.

17. Use according to claim 14 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 binds to the extracellular domain of FGFR3.

18. Use according to claim 15 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 is a monoclonal antibody or proteolytic fragment thereof.

19. Use according to claim 16 wherein said monoclonal antibody or proteolytic fragment thereof is an anti-FGFR3 Fab.

20. Use according to claim 15 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 is a single chain Fv having SEQ ID NO:37.

21. Use according to claim 15 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H-CDR3 region selected from a group consisting of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:1-9 and a V_L-CDR3 regions selected from a group consisting of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:10-18.

22. Use according to claim 21 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H-CDR3 region having SEQ ID NO:1 and a V_L-CDR3 region having SEQ ID NO:10.

23. Use according to claim 15 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H region selected from a group of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:19-27 and a V_L region selected from the group of polypeptides having SEQ ID NOS:28-36.

24. Use according to claim 23 wherein said molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody which has a specific affinity for FGFR3 comprising a V_H region having SEQ ID NO:19 and a V_L region having SEQ ID NO:28.

25. Use according to claim 14 wherein the T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease is selected from rheumatoid arthritis, collagen II arthritis, multiple sclerosis, systemic lupus erythematosus, psoriasis, juvenile onset diabetes, Sjogren's disease,

thyroid disease, sarcoidosis, autoimmune uveitis, inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's and ulcerative colitis) and myasthenia gravis.

26. Use according to claim 25 wherein the T cell mediated inflammatory autoimmune disease is rheumatoid arthritis.

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ABSTRACT

The present invention provides a method of preventing and treating a T cell mediated disease, including inflammatory autoimmune diseases and in particular rheumatoid arthritis, by administering to a patient in need thereof at least one FGFR3 antagonist including a molecule comprising the antigen-binding portion of an antibody having a specific affinity for fibroblast growth factor receptor 3 (FGFR3), a FGFR3 specific tyrosine kinase inhibitor, a FGFR3 specific soluble receptor, a FGFR3 peptide or peptidomimetic, a FGFR3 specific RNA inhibitor or a DNA vaccine encoding FGFR3 or a fragment thereof.

Figure 1

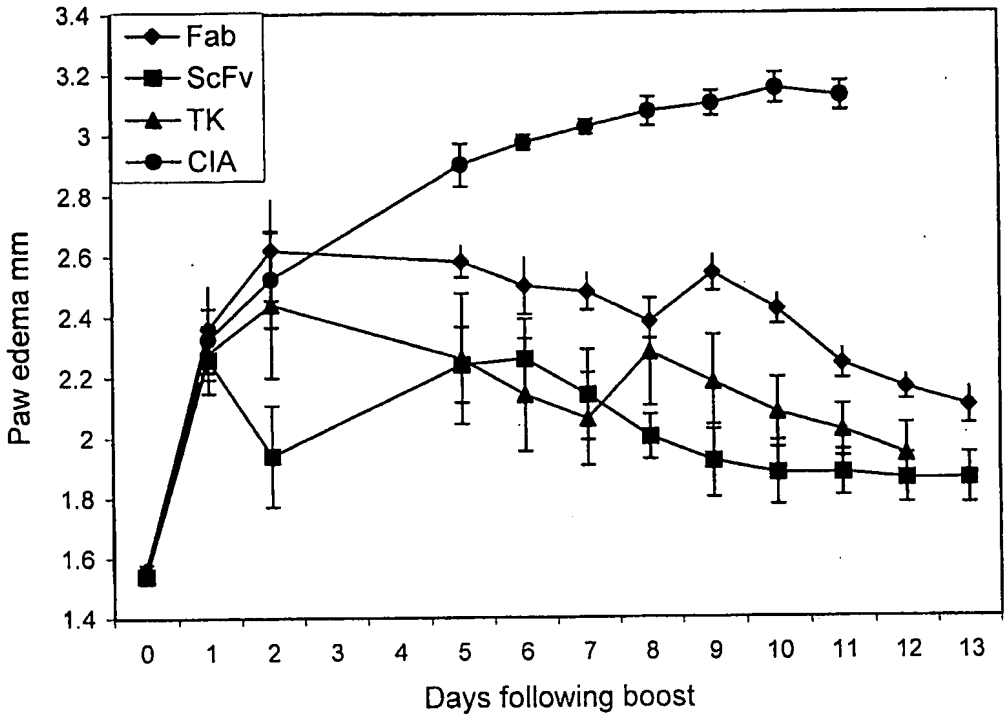
Fab
ScFv
TK
CIA
Paw edema mm
3.4
3.2
3
2.8
2.6
2.4
2.2
2
1.8
1.6
1.4
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
Days following boost

Figure 2

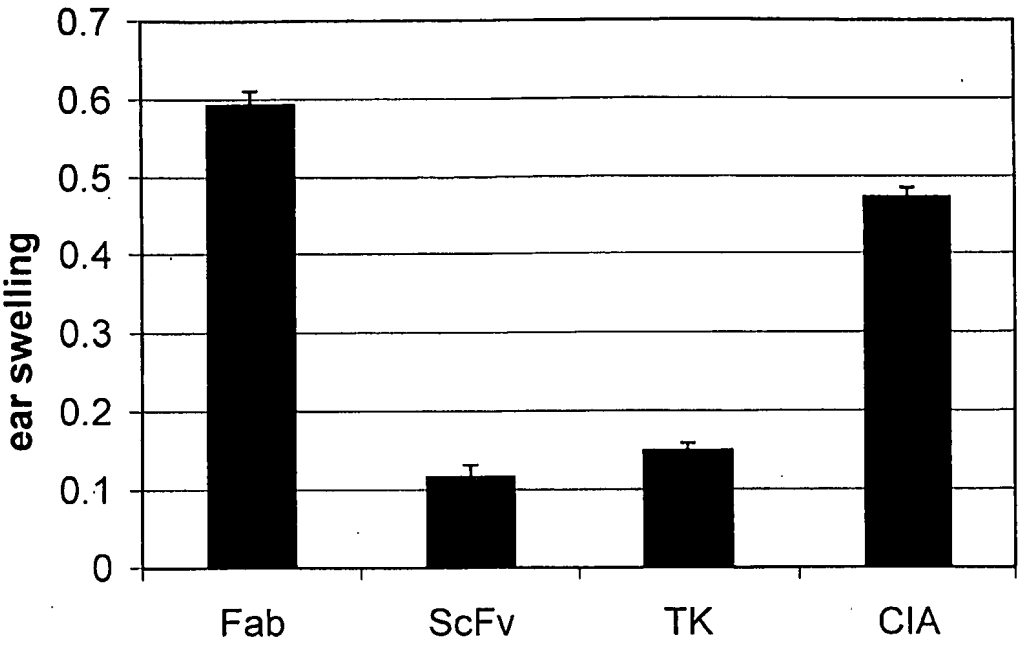

Figure 3